--40. A method for preparing a biopsy sample of tissue containing malignant cells for chemosensitivity testing, comprising:

(a) obtaining a tumor specimen containing malignant cells and unwanted cells, wherein said malignant cells are susceptible of overgrowth of said unwanted cells;

(b) mechanically separating said specimen into cohesive multicellular particulates having a size of about 0.25-1.25 mm^3;

(c) growing a tissue culture monolayer from said cohesive multicellular particulates without overgrowth of said unwanted cells;

(d) inoculating malignant cells from said monolayer into a plurality of segregated sites;

(e) treating said plurality of sites with at least one agent;

(f) examining said plurality of sites; and

(g) assessing chemosensitivity of the cells in said plurality of sites.

41. The method according to claim 40 wherein said agent is at least one agent selected from the group consisting of chemotherapeutic agents, radiation therapy agents, radiation therapy sensitizing agents, radiation therapy desensitizing agents, immunotherapeutic agents, gene therapy agents, combination chemotherapeutic agents, hormone therapy agents, wound healing agents, and differentiating agents.

42. The method according to claim 40 wherein said plurality of segregated sites further comprises a plate containing a plurality of wells therein.

43. The method according to claim 42 wherein said cells in step (d) are prepared in suspension prior to inoculation into said plurality of wells.

44. The method according to claim 43 wherein the assessing of chemosensitivity includes monitoring culture medium in which the monolayer is grown for production of soluble secreted factors indicative of a disease state or lack thereof.

45. The method according to claim 44 wherein said agent is a gene therapy agent and further said gene therapy agent comprises an antisense oligonucleotide.

46. The method according to claim 44 wherein said soluble secreted factors are cellular markers, secreted factors or tumor antigens.

47. The method according to claim 44 wherein said soluble secreted factors are selected from the group consisting of plasminogen activator inhibitors type 1, eurokinase-type plasminogen activator, alpha-fetoprotein, carcinoembryonic antigen, transforming growth factor alpha, transforming growth factor beta, and major histocompatibility complex.- -

REMARKS

New claims 40-47 submitted herewith are all directed to tumor specimens containing malignant cells and unwanted cells including but not limited to fibroblasts, and further directed to tumor specimens containing malignant cells susceptible to overgrowth of the unwanted cells. Support for the "overgrowth of unwanted cells" language, which the practice of the present method avoids, may be found, for example, at page 7, second-to-last line. Additional support for the newly submitted claims appears in the originally filed claims.